



# **CITY COUNCIL**

## **CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3065/Telephone 547-7000

### **Todd K. Apo**

*Councilmember, District I*

*Chair, Transportation Committee*

Phone: (808) 547-7001 / Facsimile: (808) 523-4220

Email: [tapo@honolulu.gov](mailto:tapo@honolulu.gov)

### **Charles K. Djou**

*Councilmember, District IV*

*Vice-Chair, Transportation Committee*

Phone: (808) 547-7004 / Facsimile: (808) 523-4220

Email: [cdjou@honolulu.gov](mailto:cdjou@honolulu.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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For More Information, Please Contact:

Councilmember Todd K. Apo at (808) 781-7761

Councilmember Charles K. Djou at (808) 478-0006

## **COUNCILMEMBERS APO AND DJOU: LINK WEST OAHU TO FORD ISLAND**

Honolulu City Councilmembers Todd Apo (Ewa, Waianae) and Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu), who are the Chair and Vice Chair of the City Council Transportation Committee, today called for construction of bridges linking Ford Island to the Ewa Plain.

Councilmember Apo commented, "Realistically, even with the transit tax approved, it will take seven or eight years before anyone rides any mass transit system. Working with the Federal government to build bridges connecting Ewa to Ford Island is a proposal that can be completed much sooner and deserves attention to help alleviate West Oahu's traffic woes immediately. I see a Ford Island bridge system complementing a future Oahu mass transit system."

Councilmember Djou, who was one of two councilmembers who voted against the recent transit tax increase, states, "Connecting Ewa to Ford Island is a sensible solution that will not require additional taxes to open another route into town. It is my hope that a toll bridge system linking West Oahu to town via Ford Island will help solve our traffic problems and eliminate the need for the recently-passed excise tax increase."

Bill 40, recently signed into law, to increase the excise tax to finance a mass transit system, will not go into effect until 2007. Most realistic estimates forecast that a working rail system will not start operation until 2012 at the earliest. Councilmembers Apo and Djou believe, in the interim, a bridge system linking West Oahu to Ford Island via the Kapolei Parkway can be planned and built within the next three to four years without the need for any tax increase, and will serve as an important piece of Oahu's entire transportation system.

On Thursday at 1:00 p.m., the City Council's Transportation Committee will hear Resolution 05-304, requesting a study of a bridge system to link West Oahu to Ford Island.

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